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C.I.A. Head Offers Drug-Test Files If Justice Department Has Inquiry

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 9—Adm. Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence, said today that he would make all the records of the Central Intelligence Agency's drug-testing activities available to the Department of Justice if it decided that "an investigation into any aspect of the matter is warranted."

His statement, made at a breakfast meeting with about two dozen reporters, was not a call for an investigation but rather a promise to cooperate in any action the department might take.

"We have not turned over the documents to the Justice Department yet, but that's just a technical point," he said. He added that he had given the department enough information for it to make a decision on whether it should pursue investigations of its own and "told them if they want [the material] it's all there."

Admiral Turner's comments came at a wide-ranging question-and-answer session in which he also said that he intended to make major cutbacks in the Directorate of Operations in the next two years, voiced increased concerns about the disclosure of classified material and

praised the reorganization plan that will strengthen his hold over the intelligence community.

Among the points he made at the session were the following:

¶Over the next two years, he plans to reduce the Directorate of Operations by about 800 positions, most of them at C.I.A. headquarters at Langley, rather than in the field.

¶The new powers given him by President Carter will enable him to manage the entire intelligence community, and to make it accountable, without allowing him to become an intelligence "czar" whose decisions cannot be challenged or reversed.

¶He has become increasingly concerned about disclosure of classified materials in recent months and has begun a system of surprise security inspections of defense contractors who work with C.I.A. materials.

A Justice Department official later said that the material from the intelligence agency had been sent both to the legal counsel's office and to the criminal division for analysis, but that no decision had yet been made about possible investigations.

A number of sources familiar with the situation suggested that criminal prosecutions, if in fact any crimes were committed, might be blocked by the five-year statute of limitations on most Federal crimes.

At the same time, they suggested that the department might want to track down and notify persons who had been unwitting victims of Government drug testing, just as it had informed victims of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's counterintelligence activities, which were known as COINTELPRO.

Could Generate Lawsuits

This, they suggested, could generate a number of civil lawsuits on behalf of the victims of the C.I.A. tests, just as the notifications about COINTELPRO activities generated civil lawsuits against

the F.B.I. and some of its officials. Admiral Turner told the Senate last week that newly uncovered documents indicated that the intelligence agency had secretly supported human behavior control research at 80 institutions, including 44 colleges or universities, and at hospitals, prisons and pharmaceutical companies.

He said that some of the testing, which included tests of LSD and a "knock-out drop," was done on unwitting subjects.

Admiral Turner refused today to say what specific laws might have been violated, but said he had alerted the department to a possible improper payment by the agency to a private institution, and to the use of unwitting subjects in the testing.

Last year, the Justice Department began an investigation into charges that a former official of the intelligence agency, Dr. Sidney J. Gottlieb, had destroyed materials concerning some of the drug-testing projects. In December, however, it quietly dropped the investigation after being unable to develop evidence of a crime.